VIII. IMPORTANT CITIES[3]

Keelung

439 Keelung City, the port for Taipei and northern Formosa, handles nearly one-half of Formosa's imports and a little more than one-fourth of all exports. Apart from factories which manufacture commercial fertilizers, wheat flour, and bicycles, it has ship-building facilities, a railway terminus, and warehouses. It also is a base for deep-sea and coastal fishing. The registered population in June 1953 was 170,000.[4]

Taipei

438 633 Taipei, located on the northern bank of Tan-shui River, is the largest city on the island, with an estimated population of over 700,000 in early 1956. It is the capital of

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3. Information on the important cities is taken from A.F. Raper and others, Urban and Industrial Taiwan, Taipei, Foreign Operations Administration and National Taiwan University, 1954, pp. 73-109.

4. The registered civilian population, apparently not including military personnel and foreigners.

633 438 Nationalist China's Central Government as well as of the Taiwan Provincial Government.[5] It is the most important center for commerce and the heart of air, railway, and highway transportation. Institutions of higher learning are concentrated here. The scenic spots, Grass Mountain (Tsaoshan) and Peitou Hot Springs, are nearby, to the north of Taipei.

Taichung

438 The fourth largest city, relatively new and growing, Taichung is located in the middle of Taichung Plain and is one of the island's agricultural centers. It has a population of 222,000.

Tainan

Located near the China Sea and twenty-nine miles north of Kaohsiung, is Tainan, ancient capital of Formosa. It is an agricultural center for sugar-cane, rice, and peanuts and is important in fish culture. The population is about 250,000. Forts Provintia and Zelandia, constructed by the Dutch, and the temples of Confucius and Koxinga (famous general of the Ming Dynasty, 1368-1644) attract tourists.

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5. According to Ya-chou T'ung-hsin [Asia Foundation Bulletin], August 17, 1955, the seat of the Provincial Government will be moved to Taichung on October 1, 1955. For construction and other reasons this has not been realized as of March 1956.

Kaohsiung

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[439] Kaohsiung is the second largest city and is known for its harbor and large-scale industries. It has a population of 300,000. Because of its warm and rather dry climate, this port handles a major portion of the island's sugar, salt, and cement exports. The naval base of Tsoying is located in the city and the military fort, Fengshan, another important military base, is about six miles north of the city limits.

Makung

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633 Makung, located in the west of the main island of the Pescadores, is an important naval base and the seat of the Penghu hsien government. The fact that this port lies in the Formosa Strait and between the China Mainland and Taiwan gives it strategic importance.

634 Each county (called gun in the five provinces and shicho in the three districts) was administered by an official whose duty was to police the county. The chief of a county supervised the town and village governments under him.

632 City governments were responsible
633 directly to the provincial government in which they were situated, while towns and villages were responsible to the provincial government through the county administration. Mayors of cities, as well as chiefs of town and heads of villages, were all appointed by the governor-general. There was an assembly in each city, town, and village. The city assembly had a membership ranging from twenty to forty and the town and village assemblies had eight to twenty members. One-half of the members of the local assemblies were appointed by the governor of the province and one-half were elected by the qualified electorate. The city assemblies functioned in the same manner as the provincial assemblies. They could act on the city budget and tax matters. They also elected six members to the city council which took the place of the assembly when the latter was not in session. The governor of a province or the mayor of a city held the veto power over the acts of the assemblies. The town and village assemblies were consultative agencies, authorized only "to announce their opinions [illegible]

answer to questions submitted to them by the local government authorities." The heads of towns and villages had no obligation to seek or to follow the advice of local assemblies. The governor-general could dissolve the assemblies at any level at will.

The exceedingly limited extent of "self-government,"[1] which the Japanese had much publicized, was further minimized by the franchise. Suffrage was granted to all self-supporting male Japanese subjects 25 years of age or older, resident in the relevant districts for more than six months, who have been paying for six months or longer a minimum local tax of ¥ 5.00 a year.[6] Formosan Chinese were counted as Japanese subjects, but because the majority of them paid a city, town, or village tax under ¥ 5.00 a year,[7] the number

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6. Naito, op. cit., p. 73.

7. "The small landowners in Taiwan possess chiefly dry land and the majority of them own less than one ko (chio = 2.39 acres). But the village land tax from one ko of dry land is less than five yen and consequently the majority of owners, as well as all tenants and workers, have no right to vote." Grajdanzev, op. cit., p. 163.

1 [During Japanese occupation from 1895 to 1945 -- Analyst]

52:Barclay S-5 (no date)1954 AD1 Formosa AD1

a makeshift way of distinguishing urban places from rural Districts. Many subsidiary market towns, for example, must be overlooked for lack of data.

But in a population that was predominantly rural, these cities were the most "urban," the farthest removed from traditional peasant agriculture. Under the watchfulness of the Japanese, a town could not enlarge its economic importance for the rest of the island very far before it was given regular municipal administration. Hence we may treat them as representing the most extreme departures from rural conditions to be found in Taiwan, and can proceed to find out how far they deviated from the rest.

In 1932, two more cities were raised to municipal rank. The earlier and later population figures for all nine that were Municipalities in 1935 have been sorted out from the respective census reports, and appear in Table 24. It is clear that the cities of Taiwan were not great metropoleis. These nine were the largest, and many Westerners would regard only the foremost among them (Taipei) as being urban. One cannot gainsay their importance to Taiwan: they differed consistently enough from the rest of the island not to be lightly dismissed.

One distinction that is obvious in Table 24 is in the rate of growth. Though the cities varied considerably among themselves, every one increased its Taiwanese inhabitants more than the entire island did. Most cities maintained steady rates of growth, and therefore tended to keep their differences with the others.

The data are condensed and plotted on a logarithmic scale in Fig. 19, so as to contrast the rates of increase of city and non-city Taiwanese and Japanese. The inequalities in growth stand out clearly. Those cities that were expanding more slowly are likewise the ones that had relatively fewer migrants in the data above. They did not outgrow the non-city population by much of a margin, either in Taiwanese or Japanese. The differences in increase persisted over the entire recorded period, and carried over into the later years of accelerated economic growth. Indeed, from these data on population redistribution one could scarcely guess that the tempo of economic life had changed after 1935. Whereas these same cities had held 10 per cent of all Taiwanese in 1920, they contained only 14.7 per cent as late as 1940. For all their growth, cities did not greatly surpass the increase of all Taiwanese.